

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Press Release

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Georgia DOT's Freight & Logistics Plan Garners National Award

ATLANTA – A plan by the Georgia Department of Transportation and other agencies to help bolster the state's already flourishing logistics industry over the next four decades has received the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) 2012 Transportation Planning Excellence Award.

The biennial award – given by the FHWA in conjunction with the Federal Transit Administration and the non-profit Transportation Research Board – was presented to Georgia DOT Assistant State Planning Administrator Tom McQueen yesterday at a meeting in California of state and local transportation and transit planners.

In close collaboration with Governor Nathan Deal's office, the Department of Economic Development's Center of Innovation for Logistics and Cambridge Systematics, Inc., Georgia DOT developed a framework to continue growing the state's \$50 billion per year (in sales) freight industry. Investing \$18-\$20 billion in logistics improvement projects over the next 40 years will yield the state thousands more jobs and more than \$65 billion in new economic output, the study found.

"This award, in addition to justly recognizing the excellent work by the Department's planners and engineers and their colleagues at Economic Development, underscores the soundness and importance of one of Governor Deal's foremost priorities – creating jobs to grow our economy" State Transportation Planning Director Toby Carr noted. "Every dollar we invest in Georgia's ports and our transportation system returns the state and all the Southeast many more dollars in good jobs and economic growth."

"The importance of a reliable freight network that allows private industry to move their goods efficiently and cost effectively has never been more important. As a starting point for almost any company, the costs of logistics can represent 10 percent of total revenue," added Page Siplon, executive director of the Logistics Innovation Center. "New prospects and existing Georgia businesses alike are consistently looking at our state as a place to grow and compete for a wide range of reasons. With increasing frequency, one of the first discussion topics on their list is logistics related. The Statewide Logistics Plan is another step forward to show Georgia's commitment as a partner to private industry, in today's economy and tomorrow's."

The FHWA also recognized the plan for its inclusion of private industry input through an advisory committee of executive leaders of The Home Depot, Delta Airlines, Georgia Pacific, Coca-Cola, CSX,

Norfolk Southern, the Coastal Logistics Group, Southern Freight Inc., the Georgia Ports Authority and Georgia's Motor Trucking Association.

Georgia's logistics industry has some 11,000 different logistics providers that employ more than 142,000 people and serve 30,000 logistics-enabled companies in the state. Together, they provide one million jobs; generate more than \$500 billion in combined annual revenue; and comprise a full 18 percent of Georgia's entire gross state product (GSP).

On Tuesday, July 31, voters will decide if 12 designated districts across Georgia will be authorized to collect a one-cent sales tax for the next 10 years to be devoted exclusively to local and regional transportation projects. In districts where the referendum passes, the Department of Transportation will be responsible for project delivery. An independent study ranked Georgia's DOT first in the country in on-budget project delivery and second in on-time delivery. Project delivery is what Georgia DOT does. Referendum projects assigned to the Department will be completed on time and on budget. For further information on the important Transportation Referendum, please visit: www.dot.ga.gov/transportationreferendum